M

CARE AND CLEANING OF BUILDING MARBLE

VERMONT MARBLE COMPANY
PROCTOR, VERMONT

Introduction

OWNERS and occupants of new buildings are usually rather careful of the paint and woodwork. Even the metal fixtures are at first given solicitous rubbing. The marble, however, is frequently left to look out for itself. Indeed, the impression seems to be quite general that marble can stand without cleaning amid the dirt of the modern city, retaining its original beauty in spite of constant soiling. On the other hand those who attempt to do the right thing frequently injure the marble by giving it the wrong kind of treatment.

It is to remedy these conditions, promote better appreciation and more intelligent care of marble, that the following rules and suggestions have been compiled.

In revising this fifth edition, we have incorporated numerous recommendations of the United States Bureau of Standards, based on their recent study of problems relating to the maintenance of interior marble.

Marble Kept Clean Is Kept Beautiful

MARBLE deserves the same care that should be accorded any furnishing where permanent beauty and long life are desired. The charm of marble can be preserved by a little consistent effort properly directed.

Polished Interior Marble

POLISHED marble should be cleaned weekly, or at least once each month. Grease, dirt and dust will collect on the surface and if not removed will result in a cloudy film and cause discoloration. Water alone will not remove this accumulation. It is necessary to use a mild alkali in the water to remove the film and prevent this discoloration. We recommend as one of the best materials for this purpose Wyandotte Sanitary Cleaner and Cleanser. It contains no grease product, lye or other corrosive fillers; it rinses freely and does not leave a greasy or slippery film to catch and hold the dirt. One heaping tablespoonful of this cleaner to a pail of lukewarm water will clean the surface effectively without injury to the polish.

It is recommended that the surface of the marble to be cleaned be first thoroughly dampened with clear water before washing with the cleaning material. This will result in a saving of cleaning materials, in easier rinsing and will prevent any possible injurious action from the salts in the cleaning preparation.

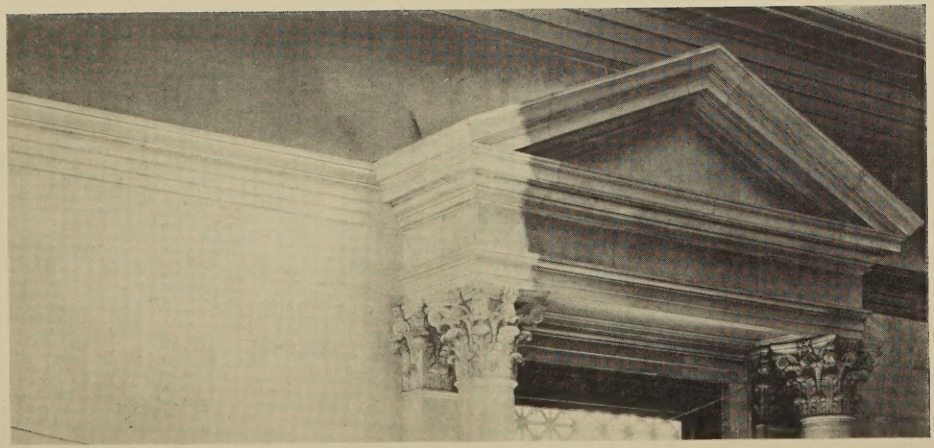
Polished marble should be wiped dry after washing and then rubbed vigorously with a soft woolen cloth, cheese cloth, white cotton waste or chamois skin. This prevents streaks which might be left from the dirt in the wash water. If the marble is especially dirty or badly stained, see later suggestions for the use of a special poultice.

Never use an acid on marble. Soaps, soft soaps and soap powders are often of a caustic nature and they may contain impurities. Usually they are not readily rinsable and if used with hard water form a waxlike coating on the surface which brings about discoloration and acts as a binder for dust and dirt. Scouring bricks and harsh abrasives destroy the polish. Not only should you guard the front of the slab from things that will cause injury, but you should also be sure that there are no foreign substances at the back, the stains from which may work their way to the surface.

Sand Finished or Honed Interior Marble

FLOORS, stair treads and marble subject to abrasive wear must be mopped or scrubbed regularly. See the recommendation under previous heading about dampening the marble before cleaning. Our experience has given us confidence in Wyandotte Detergent as a good volcanic ash abrasive cleaning powder, one which neither grinds nor scratches and is free from caustic and lye. We feel we can recommend it unreservedly. Sprinkle the powder sparingly on the floor and scrub with a little water or put two or three handfuls directly in the pail and mop in the usual way. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry with a mop. Care should be taken to keep metal parts of the mop from injuring baseboards or risers. Don't try to clean with dirty water. Change it as often as necessary. Strong soap powders, oil soaps, soft soaps, etc., are injurious as they cause discoloration and the formation of a film, making the floor slippery and unsightly.

In sweeping marble floors, white pine sawdust is very satisfactory. Avoid sawdust made from oak or other woods, also prepared sweeping compounds and oiled mops. They are likely to produce stains.



Albany Savings Bank, Albany, N. Y. A photograph which shows how soiled interior walls may be restored without harming the fine texture of the marble.

Exterior Marble

THE mellowing influence of time is a great beautifier of architectural work. In the process of weathering, the cold and dazzling whiteness of freshly cut stone takes on an atmosphere of antiquity and warmth that is greatly to be desired. Buildings may be robbed of a distinct part of their charm and dignity through the laborious process of cleaning. Be sure, therefore, that the building actually needs cleaning and will be improved thereby.

A splendid cleaner for exterior marble may be made as follows: Place two pounds or about 1½ quarts of Wyandotte Detergent in the bottom of a fourteen-quart pail, run in about four quarts of scalding water, stirring thoroughly. Add cold water, filling the pail. Stir while using and apply with a broad calcimine brush, like whitewash, to as much surface as can be reached from staging or ladder. Then wet a good fiber scrub-brush in this solution and dip into the Wyandotte Detergent powder and scrub thoroughly. Wash down with a hose or otherwise thoroughly rinse after cleaning.

The use of acid for cleansing any marble is always to be deprecated. Sufficiently diluted and applied, with extreme care, it may do no harm, but it is a dangerous expedient to entrust to the ordinary work-

man. It may burn the stone so that the last state is worse than the first.

We do not recommend the use of sand blast for cleaning marble. It has a tendency to open the pores and remove that crust which forms on all seasoned stones as nature's own preservative. This treatment also removes the pointing between the stones and permits the entrance of moisture.

The use of steel brushes is harmful. Despite washing, minute particles of steel will remain on the stone and inevitably cause rusting.

In some cities there are companies equipped to clean building exteriors successfully with steam or compressed air. This method has our approval.

Exterior Storefront Marble

VERDE Antique will retain its polish and natural beauty with systematic cleanings as recommended for polished marbles.

Black and Gold, Belgian Black, Levanto and similar highly colored polished marbles that are exposed to the weather require repeated repolishings or a waxing treatment. Wax the surface with a mixture of two parts beeswax and one part turpentine. (Melt the wax and pour into the turpentine.) Rub over the marble with a cloth and remove excess with a fresh cloth. Buff until the gloss appears.

Stains

THE treatment of stains is a problem quite independent from general cleaning.

Stains are often conquered with difficulty, if allowed to stand for a long time. Therefore, they should be treated at once. To remove a deep-seated stain or discoloration in any sort of stone is no easy task. The thing most needed in treating stains is persistence. Results may not be immediate. Systematic applications of the proper stain remover will usually prove successful. Quick action cleaners are too often composed of acids which sacrifice for immediate results the life and finish of the marble. Stains often disappear through the action of sunlight and frost after other remedies have failed.

Poultice Process

THE best method for removing stains and discoloration that comes from long neglect is with a poultice made from Wyandotte Detergent. Add boiling water to the Detergent and stir thoroughly, forming a smooth paste. This should be thick enough to adhere to the perpendicular face of the marble. Apply this paste with a mason's trowel. The poultice



Fulton Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. Compare the marble i
already been renovated. This is the result of poulticin



upper corner at the right with the lighter walls which have
e work which is being done by the men on the staging.

should be about ¼ inch thick and uniformly applied so as to shut off air from the surface of the marble. Let it remain from 48 to 72 hours or until thoroughly dried. Dampen poultice slightly to avoid dust and remove with a wooden paddle. The paste works best when freshly mixed and applied hot. In severe cases several applications may be necessary to secure best results. This poultice draws out the stains or the discoloration and dirt that come from long neglect, brings about even cleaning without harming the polish and in most cases will completely restore the marble to its original life and color. This method is especially helpful in cleaning carving or intricate surfaces that are scrubbed with difficulty. A special formula poultice has been used with great success on very stubborn cases. If suggestions above do not give the desired results, ask for more explicit directions for the successful application of this method from the local representative of the J. B. Ford Company of Wyandotte, Mich., manufacturers of Wyandotte cleaning preparations.

Stained urinal slabs are unsightly. The floor around a urinal or watercloset can be kept clean by scattering Wyandotte Detergent and leaving it overnight. If there is a stain due to neglect try the poultice. If this fails, apply the trisodium phosphate treatment described under tobacco stains.

Ink stains can be removed in most cases by the application of the Wyandotte Poultice. Often a piece of cotton saturated with ammonia or Javelle water placed over ink stains will prove effective. Or use Vermont Crystal Cleaner (see notice in back of book).

Tobacco stains can be removed ordinarily with Wyandotte Detergent Poultice. If this fails, use Vermont 50-50 Liquid Cleaner or try the following: Dissolve two pounds of trisodium phosphate crystals in one gallon of hot water. Mix the contents of a twelve-ounce can of chlorinated lime to a paste in an enameled pan by adding water slowly and mashing the lumps. Pour this and the trisodium phosphate solution into a stoneware jar and add water until two gallons are obtained. Stir well, cover the jar and allow to settle. For use, add some of the liquid to powdered talc until a thick paste is obtained and apply as a poultice ¼ inch thick. If it is desirable to apply this with a brush, add about a teaspoonful of sugar to each pound of powdered talc. When dry scrape off with a wooden paddle. This mixture is a strong bleaching agent and is corrosive to metals, hence in using it care should be taken not to drop it on colored fabrics or metal fixtures.

Lubricating oil or grease stains, usually a light yellow color, can be removed best by using Vermont 50-50 Liquid Cleaner. See notice in back of book. Gasoline or

benzol may also prove effective but are apt to leave a yellow ring.

Never apply a blow torch or other intense artificial heat to the marble. Within limits it is helpful, but the degree of heat is not readily regulated and the stone may easily be burned as a result. The stain may be removed without it, even though the process may be slower. Keep oil and grease away from the marble.

Linseed oil or paint stains should be treated with Vermont 50-50 Liquid Cleaner. See notice in back of book. If some color remains bleach as follows: Cover the stain with cloth or white blotting paper and saturate with hydrogen peroxide. The bleaching action may be accelerated by moistening another cloth in ammonia water and placing over the first. Repeat if necessary.

Discolorations from lumber, woodfloors, excelsior, leaves or anything of an organic nature are readily removed with the poultice as described above. These stains are usually pink or reddish brown in color. For especially difficult cases we suggest mixing up the poultice with cold Javelle water. Or Javelle water alone may be applied on white blotting paper, wetting repeatedly until the discoloration disappears.

A poultice of hot lime on sand finished marble is sometimes successful in removing stains.

The most troublesome stains to eradicate are those produced by iron rust. First, be sure the cause is removed. A surface stain on polished work can sometimes be removed by vigorous rubbing or by slight scraping—repolishing if necessary. On sand finished work, a surface stain should be promptly removed by gritting. If the rust stain is deep seated or located in carving or lettering where gritting is not possible use Vermont Crystal Cleaner. See notice in back of book.

Stains from bronze are hard to remove if of long standing. Use only United States standard bronze, natural finish, free from oil finish. We suggest the following bronze stain remover: Mix together in the dry form one part of ammonium chloride (sal ammoniac) and four parts of powdered talc. Add ammonia water and stir until a thick paste is obtained. Place this over the stain and leave until dry. Remove with a wooden paddle. Repeat if necessary. Substitute aluminum chloride above in place of sal ammoniac if desired.

Fire stains on marble may be the result of smoke or pitch from burning wood. Scrub the marble to remove surface deposit and saturate three or four layers of canton flannel with a solution of trisodium phosphate and chlorinated lime as described under tobacco stains. Press this over the stain and cover with a slab of marble or piece of glass. Try also Vermont 50-50 Liquid Cleaner.

Perspiration stains from the hands or oil from the hair produce brown or yellow stains. Use the method recommended for fire stains and repeat as necessary.

Helpful Hints

LINSEED OIL putty or white lead should never be used in conjunction with marble. This or any similar oil putty will cause serious staining.

Plaster of Paris and Keene Cement are satisfactory materials for anchoring marble and sealing joints, but they are soluble in water and should not be used out of doors where there is moisture. Do not add these materials to Portland Cement.

Our Vermont White Cement is a stainless product fourteen times as strong as Portland Cement, and it is non-expansive. Use it as directed, where these qualities are needed.

If a stainless, waterproof material is needed for sealing a joint that must remain plastic, use Grafting Wax. This is a mixture of rosin, beeswax and tallow, which we recommend for the setting of water-closets or other plumbing fixtures that may need to be removed for repairs.

The use of White Stainless Portland Cement, made from iron-free materials, will insure against the stains which sometimes come from ordinary Grey Portland Cement.

Caustic solutions, lye, etc., cause discoloration and are not recommended.

A pure white soap may safely be used if care is taken to use soft water for wash-

ing and rinsing. The effect of soap when used with hard water for cleaning marble is to form a waxlike coating on the surface which results in a slippery and unsightly appearance. Because of this difficulty and the presence of harmful impurities we do not advise the use of soaps or soap powders. The Wyandotte products already mentioned are free from harmful impurities and rinse freely, leaving no film to hold dirt.

Discoloration may result from the continued use of ammonia water.

Javelle water is well suited for use on polished marble. It is advisable to dampen the marble surface with clear water before applying Javelle water. It is a bleaching agent and should not be allowed to drip on the clothes or other fabrics. It is corrosive to metals, and fixtures should be immediately washed off with clear water and dried. Rinse marble with clear water and dry.

When marble comes in contact with ungalvanized iron or steel, either the metal or the back of the marble (or both) should be painted with a black waterproofing paint such as R. I. W. No. 110 made by Toch Bros. Or marble may be made practically immune to iron stains by treating with solution A supplied with our Vermont Crystal Cleaner. This treatment can be applied to the exposed face of the marble as well as the back, since it causes no change in appearance.

Dowels or cushions of aluminum are the safest to use in conjunction with marble. These are stainless and we carry a stock of assorted sizes.

Strong salt solutions tend to destroy the fine finish of marble and should therefore be kept away from it.

Do not use an abrasive cleaning preparation on polished marble.

Thorough rinsing is of the greatest importance.

A Suggestion on Your Cleaning Problem

THE Wyandotte cleaning materials which have been recommended in this booklet are manufactured by the J. B. Ford Co., Wyandotte, Mich. We have found these products to be successful aids in the cleaning of marble.

Building owners and superintendents will do well to send a postal request for information to the address given above. Or better still, look in your telephone directory to see if they have a branch office in your city.

Their nearest representative will gladly call without obligation and give expert advice on the cleaning of marble.

Hand the enclosed convenient card of instructions and suggestions to your janitor. Ask for additional copies if needed.

You will find the Vermont Marble Company ready at any time to serve you in these matters.

Vermont 50-50 Liquid Cleaner

For

MARBLE, GRANITE AND ALL KINDS OF NATURAL STONE, CAST STONE AND CONCRETE

Use this for stains from Oil, Grease, Paint, Linseed Oil, Putty, Tobacco, Match Scratches, Cigarette Burns, Smoke, Fire, Bird Droppings, Leaf Mould, Perspiration and General Service.

A harmless, efficient cleaning fluid that leaves no yellow ring and does not alter the finish.

Sold in quart cans. Write our nearest Branch.

Vermont Crystal Cleaner

For Removing Rust and Ink Stains From

MARBLE, GRANITE AND ALL KINDS OF NATURAL STONE, CAST STONE AND CONCRETE

A powerful preparation that not only removes iron rust stains from stone but prevents their recurrence.

Sold in one pound cans. Write our nearest Branch.

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